

House Republican Press Release

June 16, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Rep. Miller: Stem Cell Research Law will Lead to Major Medical Advances



When Governor M. Jodi Rell signed into law a bill authorizing embryonic stem cell research in Connecticut, it set the stage for major scientific breakthroughs in the treatment of cancer and chronic medical conditions, said state Representative Lawrence G. Miller, R-122nd District, who cosponsored the measure.

The governor signed the bill into law in ceremonies Wednesday at the University of Connecticut Health Center.

“This new law makes millions in state funding available for embryonic and human adult stem cell research that could result in the development of new treatments for several forms of cancer and many chronic medical conditions. Renowned teaching hospitals such as those at Yale and the University of Connecticut now will have the resources they need to become world-class stem cell research centers as well,” said Representative Miller, R-122nd District, a cancer survivor whose life was prolonged through adult stem cell transplant therapy.

“Yale-New Haven Hospital has a new cancer research and treatment center on the drawing boards that will benefit from the stem cell research that will be funded under this act. When it opens its doors in a few years, cancer patients from Connecticut will no longer have to spend hours on the road driving to out-of-state hospitals for treatment,” Representative Miller said.

“The stem cell research law will provide valuable new support for our already-thriving bioscience industry and encourage research that has the potential to improve public health throughout the United States. It will lead to enormous medical and scientific advances, stimulate economic growth in Connecticut and create new jobs,” said Representative Miller, who attended Wednesday’s bill-signing ceremony.

Connecticut already is home to several pharmaceutical and biotech companies, which employ about 18,000 people, Representative Miller noted.

The new law creates a 10-year, \$100 million research fund to encourage stem cell research in Connecticut. The fund is established with \$20 million from the current budget

year surplus, to be used in fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and will be supplemented with \$10 million a year from the Tobacco Settlement Fund in fiscal years 2008 to 2015.

The new law prohibits human cloning and sets guidelines for the way embryos, embryonic stem cells, unfertilized eggs and sperm are donated. It also establishes a nine-member Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee responsible for administering grants from the research fund in consultation with the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, and a five-member Stem Cell Research Peer Review Committee responsible for reviewing grant applications and making recommendations to the Department of Public Health and the advisory committee on their ethical and scientific merits.